



ON POINT

FALLUJAH, Iraq — An M-1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank moves into position during a mortar attack here Aug. 14. 1st MarDiv. is engaged in security and stabilization operations in the Al Anbar Province. For more about tanks in Iraq, see page 44.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Jordan F. Sherwood

SEMPER
FIDELIS

▼ **FALLUJAH, Iraq** — Two Marines with 3rd Plt., C Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marines, sit at their post on a rooftop watching smoke rise after an explosion in the city Nov. 17. The platoon was the first element of C Co. to hit the ground when 1st Bn. entered the city Nov. 8 for Operation A Fajr to oust all insurgents.

Photo by Sgt. Clinton Firstbrook



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“The only thing that can drive a man to accomplish the task at hand and keep going day in and day out is esprit de corps. Today it’s as strong as it was on Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Okinawa; the list goes on and on. As long as we have our esprit de corps we’ll always win the tough battles.”

GOUGE

— 1st Sgt. Michael Farrell
43-year-old native of Stratford, Conn.,
C Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Marines

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MARINES

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Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps
Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada

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FEATURED CONTRIBUTOR



Cpl. Matthew Richards, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Cpl. Matthew Richards joined the Marine Corps Nov. 26, 2001. The 21-year-old Mobile, Ala., native is deployed as a combat correspondent with 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). This is his first deployment.

“It’s not a bad gig. I enjoy being able to jump from unit to unit while out here. I never would have seen what I have seen otherwise,” Richards says of being a combat correspondent.

“I learned I hate mortars even more than sniper fire, and my two most common phrases under fire are ‘Holy !&*S\$, that was close!’ and ‘Where’s it coming from?’ In fact they’re most often used together,” Richards said of writing the story, “A Fire Team’s Tale,” on page 10.



On the Cover

“*Extremely Proud*” — Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael W. Hagee and Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps John L. Estrada thank Marines and their families for keeping their spirits high and remaining vigilant as the Corps, America and the world enter another year in the Global War on Terrorism. The Corps’ leaders visited Marines across the globe this year, and are “extremely proud” of their efforts the commandant said.

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Glenn Holloway
Note: Special thanks to Army Sgt. Josh Lovely, Darrell Hudson and other members of the Pentagon Portrait Studio.

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MARINES SOUND OFF

Every Marine a Rifleman

The line between combat arms and combat support has always been hazy for Marines. Let’s face it, no other service trains its personnel as, “riflemen first.” Every one of us wearing the eagle, globe and anchor has at some point lain in the dirt at the 500-yard line and put steel on target. It’s what we do. It’s who we are.

It should have come as no surprise to us at *Marines* that when we tried to put together a “combat arms” edition of the magazine, combat support kept emerging. After all, it really isn’t an MOS that defines combat arms these days.

Grunts and other Marines in the direct combat arms specialties may still be the bread and butter of our Corps – and without these men eating in the dirt, living in the dirt, dying in the dirt, our lives as Marines would be meaningless – but the rest of us, from bakers and mapmakers, to box kickers and pencil pushers, are right there with them, doing what we can to make their lives more bearable.

Our combat support roles have evolved. Support often comes in the way of generator mechanics and warehouse clerks on foot patrols through hostile country, where the local populaces aren’t exactly thrilled to see Americans.

And it comes by way of our Navy doctors and corpsmen, who brave mortar attacks and other horrors to be close enough to the front lines to treat Marines within the “golden hour.” It comes via IED-laden roads down which motor transport Marines – men and women – haul much needed supplies to their brothers-in-arms, while practically thumbing their noses at the dangers involved.

Because the line between combat arms and combat support is so blurred, we’ve combined the 3rd and 4th quarter issues of *Marines*. We celebrate our ties to one another as another generation of Marines follows the legendary leathernecks who fought at the Chosin Reservoir and live up to the ethos of “Every Marine a Rifleman.” **M**

Semper Fi,
Marines



MARINES SOUND OFF

Editor,

It is extremely important to re-emphasize the note in the "Changing a Humvee Tire 101" article in the April-June 2004 issue of *Marines*. I was pleased to see that you at least mentioned the tire cage. However, it was just a side note.

I recently completed a mishap investigation on tire changing at the Marine Corps Motor Transport School located at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. What should have been a simple tire change led to serious injury.

A Marine was changing a M-K48 tire on a tire machine. He attempted to inflate the tire while still on the machine instead of using a tire cage. The slip ring came off during inflation, which allowed the flange to shoot off the multi-piece wheel assembly and hit the Marine in the head, chest and arm.

The Marine nearly died and will most likely live a much different life from now on. He is faced with permanent partial disabilities including the loss of eyesight in at least one eye.

The Army has had fatal injuries from similar mishaps. The tire cage is not a side note; it's a must. A tire cage should be used for the deflation and inflation of any split rim tire!

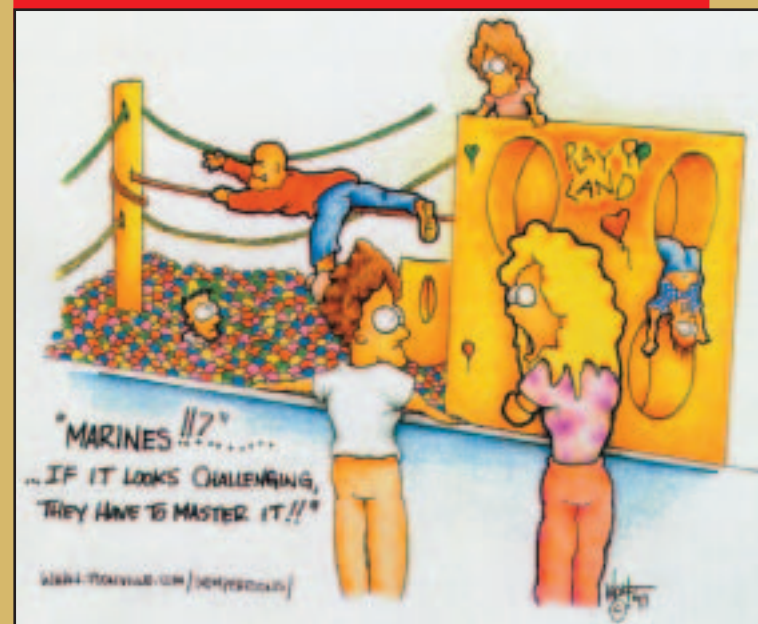
Capt. William Edwards
Ground Mishap Investigator, Headquarters Marine Corps,
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"Sound Off" with your letters to the editor at:

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SemperToons

By Staff Sgt. Charles F. Wolf



Tell it to the Marines!



Here's your chance to write for *Marines*. Take a look at the photograph above and tell us what you think is happening. Submit your funny caption to MCNews@hqmc.usmc.mil. Include your name, unit and base. *Marines* will pick the best one to run in next quarter's issue.



Last Issue's Funny Caption Winner:
I sure wish they had lounge chairs on the flight deck.

— Sgt. A. E. Alewine,
VMA-233,
MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

More information on concert dates and community events can be found on the Community Relations Web site at www.marines.mil/comrel/120day.nsf/community.

If you have a calendar event of Marine Corpswide interest, submit it to mcnews@hqmc.usmc.mil.

MARINES CALENDAR

2005 JANUARY

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